

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicants would like to thank Examiners Richter and Sullivan for the helpful and courteous Interview conducted in this case on April 15, 2010, the substance of which is reflected in the comments below.

Claims 1-11, 18, 26-35, 44-55, 57-59, 61, 63 and 65-70 are currently pending, although claims 8, 18 and 29-35 have been withdrawn from consideration. Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the withdrawn claims at this time pursuant to MPEP 821.04.

The Office Action rejected the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over U.S. patent 6,033,650 (“Calello”) in view of U.S. patent 5,981,680 (“Petroff”). During the Interview, agreement was reached that Applicants’ response filed December 23, 2009, overcame this rejection, and that the rejection would be withdrawn.

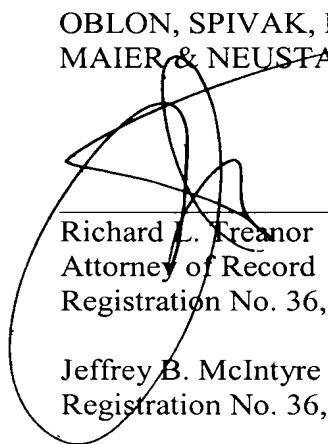
The Office Action also rejected the pending claims under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims in four patents and seven patent applications. Although Applicants disagree with these rejections, solely to expedite prosecution in this case, Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer over the applied patents/applications, thereby rendering these rejections moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Application No. 10/538,924  
Reply to Office Action dated December 30, 2009

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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Richard L. Krenor  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 36,379

Jeffrey B. McIntyre  
Registration No. 36,867

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel.: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413-2220